Chignik Management Area Pacific Herring Sac Roe Fishery Management Plan, 2005

by

Kenneth A. Bouwens

April 2005

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries



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watts W variance	watts	W			variance	
population Var					population	Var
sample var					sample	var

FISHERY MANAGEMENT REPORT NO. 05-19

CHIGNIK MANAGEMENT AREA PACIFIC HERRING SAC ROE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN, 2005

by

Kenneth A. Bouwens, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Kodiak

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Sport Fish, Research and Technical Services 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, Alaska, 99518-1599 The Division of Sport Fish Fishery Management Reports series was established in 1989 for the publication of an overview of Division of Sport Fish management activities and goals in a specific geographic area. Since 2004, the Division of Commercial Fisheries has also used the Fishery Management Report series. Fishery Management Reports are intended for fishery and other technical professionals, as well as lay persons. Fishery Management Reports are available through the Alaska State Library and on the Internet: http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/statewide/divreports/html/intersearch.cfm. This publication has undergone regional peer review.

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ABSTRACT

Pacific herring *Clupea pallasi* sac roe fisheries have occurred in bays and marine waters within the Chignik Management Area (CMA) intermittently since 1980. This document describes how the 2005 fishery will be managed in the CMA, the requirements for the fishing industry to participate in the fishery, and how to contact and relay information to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Historical harvests for the CMA, as well as the 2005 season harvest projections, are presented. This document is intended as a guide for commercial herring harvesters, buyers, and tender operators. Information regarding specific commercial herring fishing periods must be received from the department prior to any fishing activity. Due to low herring biomass, no commercial herring fishery is anticipated to occur in the CMA in 2005.

Key words: Pacific herring, Clupea pallasi, Chignik, sac roe, management plan.

INTRODUCTION

DESCRIPTION OF AREA

The Chignik Management Area (CMA) includes all waters of Alaska on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula bounded by a line extending 135° southeast for three miles from a point near Kilokak Rocks at 57° 10.34' N lat., 156° 20.22' W long. (the longitude of the southern entrance to Imuya Bay), then due south, and a line extending 135° southeast from Kupreanof Point at 55° 33.98' N lat., 159° 35.88' W long (5 AAC 27.550; Figure 1; ADF&G 2005). All geographic coordinates are defined using the global positioning system (GPS).

The CMA is divided into five fishing districts that define geographical areas used in managing the Pacific herring *Clupea pallasi* sac roe commercial fishery (Figure 2). Each district is further divided into smaller areas called sections. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game determines which areas, if any, will be open to commercial fishing and establishes guideline harvest levels (GHLs) for each of these areas based on observed herring biomass.

HISTORY OF THE CHIGNIK MANAGEMENT AREA PACIFIC HERRING FISHERY

The Alaska Peninsula Pacific herring fishery began in the early 1900s with the first recorded landing in 1906. Reported CMA harvests were combined with Alaska Peninsula harvests during the early 1900s and were categorized as "Southwestern Alaska" harvests. Commercial herring harvests did not exceeded 500 tons per year prior to the 1930s.

A small herring saltery was operated in the Chignik Bay District during the early 1930s. The CMA herring fishery ceased in the late 1930s and did not resume until 1980 when a herring sac roe fishery was initiated. From 1980 to 2004, the annual CMA herring sac roe harvests ranged from 0 to 587 tons, with the largest harvests occurring in 1980, 1981, and 1982 (Table 1). There has been no commercial herring harvest in the CMA since 1996, and observed spawning biomass have been relatively low in recent years.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

CFEC PERMIT HOLDERS

All Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permit holders desiring to harvest herring during the sac roe season must register with the department prior to beginning herring fishing activities. This can be accomplished either by single side band radio (SSB), telephone, fax, or Email (Table 2). After approximately May 5, the Chignik ADF&G office is staffed between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM. If you are unable to contact ADF&G staff in Chignik, ADF&G staff in Kodiak or Sand Point should be contacted.

PROCESSORS

Each buyer shall identify all vessels to be employed in transporting or processing herring and must register those vessels with an ADF&G representative in Chignik or Kodiak before transporting or processing herring. This can be accomplished either by SSB, telephone, fax, or Email (Table 2). Further, all processors are required to submit daily reports of all herring purchased from commercial fishermen, or other processing records as specified by a local representative of the department. All tenders and processors must submit fish tickets to ADF&G, in Chignik before departing the CMA or by mail to ADF&G in Chignik no later than 10 days after termination of buying operations in the CMA, unless other arrangements have been made with a local representative of the department.

2005 MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

GUIDELINE HARVEST LEVELS

The ADF&G manages the CMA by using a harvest strategy of a 0-20% exploitation rate of the spawning biomass documented in individual bays. The actual 2005 guideline harvest levels (GHLs) will depend upon the department's assessment of the herring biomass, the biological condition of the stocks, the amount of potential effort, and the availability of local processing. Herring biomass is not expected to be sufficient for a herring sac roe fishery in 2005.

FISHING SEASON

The Chignik herring sac roe season extends from April 15 through June 30. Herring may be taken only during fishing periods established by emergency order.

AIRCRAFT

There are no aircraft restrictions in the Chignik herring sac roe fishery. Spotter pilots are encouraged to contact ADF&G in Chignik on a regular basis. Information about biomass or spawning events is needed for the management of the fishery. All reports concerning biomass and or spawning events are confidential.

GEAR

Herring may be taken only by purse seines, which may not be more than 1,000 meshes in depth or more than 100 fathoms in length (5 AAC 27.565-575; ADF&G 2005).

CLOSED WATERS

Herring may not be taken commercially in closed waters as described in 5 AAC 15.350. Additionally, from June 12 through June 30, herring may not be taken in any waters closed to commercial salmon fishing, as described in 5 AAC 27.580 or as described by emergency order (ADF&G 2005).

REFERENCES CITED

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). 2005. Commercial Herring Fishing Regulations, 2005-2006 edition, Commercial Fisheries Division, Juneau.

TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1.—Commercial herring harvest in the Chignik Management Area, by year, 1980 to 2004.

Year	Harvest (tons)
1980	587
1981	441
1982	190
1983	88
1984	66
1985	0
1986	11
1987	75
1988	59
1989	66
1990	0
1991	0
1992	0
1993	0
1994	0
1995	77
1996	6
1997	0
1998	0
1999	0
2000	0
2001	0
2002	0
2003	0
2004	0

 Table 2.—Department contact information.

Location	Phone	Fax	VHF	SSB	Email
Chignik Weir	845-2243	845-2235	Channel 6	3230 KhZ (WON	V 29) kenneth_bouwens@fishgame.state.ak.us.
Kodiak Regional Office	486-1806	486-1841	_	3230 KhZ (WON	N 29) kenneth_bouwens@fishgame.state.ak.us.
Sand Point	383-2066	_	_	3230 KhZ (WON	N 29) —

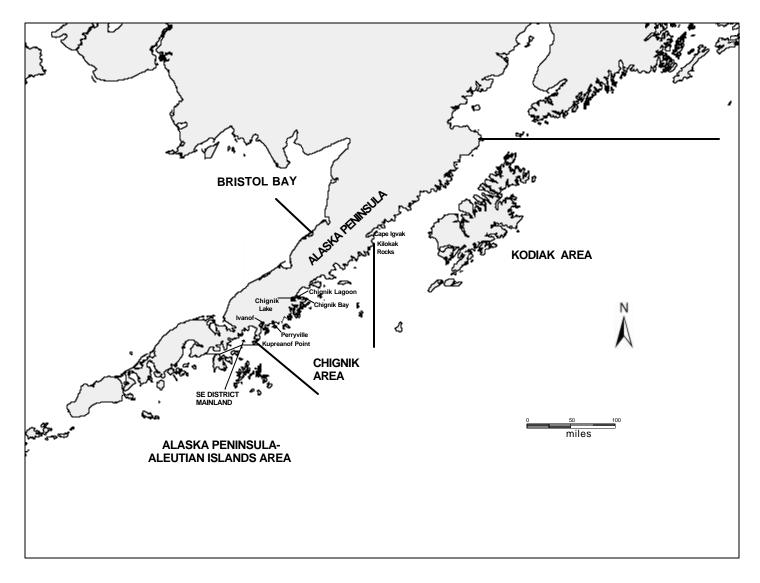


Figure 1.—Map of the Alaska Peninsula illustrating the locations of the Chignik, Kodiak, and Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Management Areas.

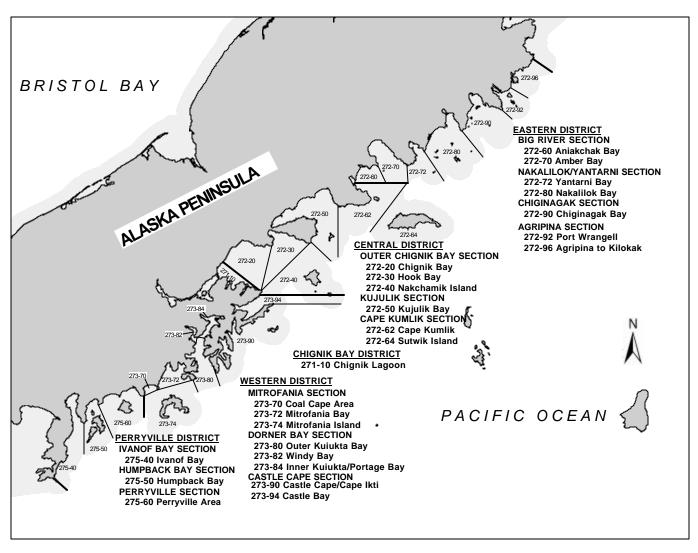


Figure 2.—Map of the Chignik Management Area illustrating district boundaries and statistical areas.